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Diversity Council update on aftermath of raid

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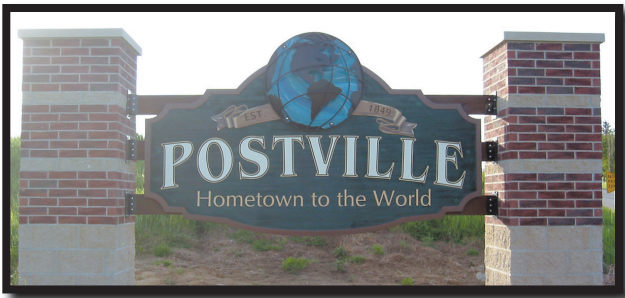
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What's happening in and around Postville.....

FreedomClub event is cancelled

The FreedomClub Social Event scheduled for June 19 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Big Four Fair is this weekend

The Annual Big Four Fair is being held this weekend at the fairgrounds on the northeast edge of Postville. This fair preshow is an excellent opportunity for 4-H and FFA youth to show their cattle, and other projects prior to the county fairs. See pages 8 and 9 of today's paper for the complete fair schedule. All area residents are urged to come out and support our young people during the Big Four Fair.

Nominations sought for Pirate Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being sought for the Postville Pirate Athletic Hall of Fame. The committee is looking for individuals and teams who received All-State, All-Conference or All-District honors, are record holders or were state champions. Those making nominations need to provide as much information about the nominees as possible. Anyone having questions or wishing to make nominations for the Hall of Fame should contact any member of the committee or write to Pirate Hall of Fame, Box 717, Postville. All nominations for the coming year are due by August 6, 2008. The induction ceremony will be held in the fall during a formal banquet.

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A Service of Remembrance was held June 12 in honor of those taken during the ICE Raid here on May 12. The service showed community support for those who are suffering. Father Paul Ouderkirk and Pastor Steve Brackett read scripture during the service and candles were lit for all those who were taken. Each attendee was given a red ribbon to show the community's solidarity following the raid. See page two.

Wednesday, June 18, 2008



The top photo shows the exterior of the new Allamakee-Clayton Rural Electric Cooperative Building which is located north of Postville on Highway 51 that opened earlier this year. The bottom photo is of the former REC building on West Greene Street in downtown Postville when it was new several decades ago.



Through the Years... REC celebrates seventieth anniversary, new facility June 25 with open house

by Stephanie Gelo
Much has changed since the winter of 1938 when a group of Northeast Iowa farmers organized Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ACEC) for the purpose of providing electric service to rural families in Allamakee, Clayton, the north one-half of Fayette and parts of the adjoining counties. At that time, investor-owned companies did not believe that they could profitably extend power lines into rural areas to serve farms

which they believed would only use electricity to light a couple of light bulbs. Farm families, however, knew better. Those farmers elected a board of directors which in turn hired the Cooperative's first manager, Kermit James. They then set about obtaining a loan from a newly formed government agency, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The first substation and lines were built from a loan of \$208,000 received from the REA. After hiring

two crew members, Al Winter and Howard Walker, the Postville substation, serving 508 families along 218 miles of line, was energized January 20, 1940. The first farm to be hooked up was that of the late Fred Panncke southeast of Postville. From that meager beginning, the Cooperative has continually expanded to now provide electric service to 9,548 members via 16 substations and 2,463 miles of line. ACEC will be celebrating the Grand Opening of its new facility and 70th Anniversary next Wednesday, June 25.

The need to build one facility that housed all aspects of ACEC's operation came when the previous location became inefficient and incapable of accommodating the growth rate of the Cooperative. At the previous location, employees often had to travel to five different locations all over Postville before answering a service call. The

inefficiencies associated with fuel costs, time, and communications were solved by the layout of the new facility. Furthermore, the old ACEC location was not large enough to house the Cooperative's service vehicles, forcing ACEC to leave some vehicles outside. The security of the facilities also suffered as a result of the dated building and size.

Other aspects that sparked the initiative to build include the new services provided by ACEC. The Cooperative added services such as First-Call emergency monitoring, WildBlue satellite Internet, and DIRECTV. These services have been integrated into the Cooperative over the past sixteen years and have accounted for an additional 4,000 customers. ACEC ex-

REC Through the Years
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Dicksons are new owners of Spice 'n Ice Redemption Center and Liquor Store



Brenda and Arden Dickson have purchased Spice 'n Ice Liquor Store and Redemption Center from Jeff and Marge Lange and are looking forward to serving the people of this area

Although the ownership of Spice 'n Ice Liquor and Redemption Center has changed, the service and products offered will stay the same. Jeff and Marge Lange, who have owned the business for several years, are passing the keys to Arden and Brenda Dickson. The Dicksons, who assumed ownership on Mon-

day, June 16, live outside of Waukon.

The couple said even though they live outside of Postville, they have several ties to the community. Brenda has two sisters, Connie

Dicksons buy Spice 'n Ice
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Diversity Council update on aftermath of raid; food pantry drained

The Postville Diversity Council is offering an update to the Postville community and the surrounding areas on the aftermath of the raid at Agriprocessors, Inc. that left many Postville residents without employment or income. Several families have seen their primary wage-earner incarcerated. There is an ongoing need for support of the immigrant community. The immediate response of people in the entire area and especially in Postville was incredible as everyone came together to assist those in need. The team at St Bridget's Catholic Church in Postville has worked tirelessly to bring organization to the initial confusion.

However, it has now been a month since the raid and there are many families who still need help. If you can provide transportation or help answer the phones or interpret, please use this email:

postville.volunteers@gmail.com to volunteer.

Remember also that there is a continuing need for contributions and these can be sent to Sister Mary McCauley, Hispanic Ministry, St Bridget's Church, PO Box 379, Postville.

There will be a community meal for the Latinos on Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 pm at St Bridget's church. The purpose of the meal is to provide an opportunity for those families affected by the raid to come together in solidarity. The food for this meal will be provided by members of Washington Prairie Lutheran Church in rural Decorah. The plans at this time are to have a weekly meal provided by area churches.

The food pantry has been drained of supplies and the main supplier in Waterloo has been closed due to flooding. The list of needs is as follows:

diapers - sizes 4, 5, & 6; formula; baby cereal; breakfast cereal; canned fruits especially peaches, pears, and mixed fruit; canned vegetables (especially pinto beans, corn, and peas); cooking oil; tortillas; dry pinto beans and other dry beans; packages of

spaghetti, noodles and ramen noodles; jars/cans of spaghetti sauce; instant potatoes; rice; powdered milk; fruit juice concentrate (in cans, NOT frozen); ready to eat pudding packs; feminine protection products; powdered laundry detergent; plastic grocery bags for distributing food

Community Foundation assists Postville families and children

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque donors have sent \$1500 to Postville for the Hispanic Relief Fund to assist families and children impacted by the immigration raid in the Allamakee County community. Sister Mary McCauley, St. Bridget's Pastoral Administrator, recently sat down with Community Foundation Communications Director M.J. Smith to discuss the current relief effort.

In temporary courtrooms

an hour away, 270 illegal immigrants, who McCauley described as men trying to feed their children, were sentenced to prison for working at Agriprocessors, the local meatpacking plant, with false documents.

This humanitarian crisis seems to have been placed in McCauley's lap, even as she

Community Foundation
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Iowa Congressman Tom Latham contemplates a question during his stop in Postville last Friday. Latham addressed issues such as the flood crisis and the ICE immigration raid in Postville which occurred at Agriprocessors on May 12.

Iowa Representative Tom Latham and Lois Clark from his staff made a stop in Postville last Friday as part of the congressman's "Disaster Tour." Latham, who arrived in Postville at approximately 2:15 p.m. visited with members of the Postville City Council and other Allamakee County officials as well County residents who had concerns.

Postville Mayor Robert O. Penrod addressed the issue of Postville's impending need for a new wastewater treatment facility and the strain on the City's economy following the I.C.E. raid at Agriprocessors on May 12. Council persons Jeff Reinhardt and Ginger Medberry reiterated the fact that many residents have experienced sewer back-up due, in part, to the outdated lines. It was noted that the facility is not in compliance with the law and much funding will be needed in order to complete the project.

When asked, Mayor Penrod told the Congressman that the plant (Agriprocessors, Inc.) is running on a limited basis and they are recruiting new help.

Rachelle Howe, of Allamakee County Economic Development, told Mr. Latham that our county is definitely in need of an increased labor force. This labor shortage, she added, will become more and more evident as "baby boomers" retire at alarming rates. She said, "We need to find ways to make the process of becoming legal easier for those immigrants who wish to work here."

Latham added, "We need to find a way for people to come here legally. There are not enough Visas and Green Cards available. The immigration system is broken."

Postville's Elementary Middle School Principal Chad Wahls told Mr. Latham about the impact the raid could have on the school district. He said it could affect as many as 18 teachers and hundreds of students. The people that are here, he said, now have no source of income and cannot afford housing. He said, "We need to do something so that it is easier for these

Representative Tom Latham stops in Postville during Disaster Tour
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